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TO PROVIDE GOLD MEDALS HONORING THE FAMILY OF HARRY CHAPIN; ANATOLY AND AVITAL SHCHARANSKY

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 1207

A BILL TO AWARD A SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FAMILY OF HARRY CHAPIN

H.R. 4186

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO ANATOLY AND AVITAL SHCHARANSKY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO SELL BRONZE DUPLICATES OF THOSE MEDALS

MAY 1, 1986

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CONTENTS

Text of: Page

H.R. 1207 2
H.R. 4186 46

STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES ON BEHALF OF H.R. 1207

Ayres, Bill, executive director, World Hunger Year 32
Carr, Hon. Bob, a Representative in Congress from the State of Michigan 14
Prepared statement 16
Chapin, Jim, brother of Harry Chapin 26
Chapin, Sandy, wife of Harry Chapin 25
Prepared statement 37
Dorgan, Hon. Byron L., a Representative in Congress from the State of North Dakota 4
Prepared statement 7
Gilman, Hon. Benjamin A., a Representative in Congress from the State of New York 9
Prepared statement 11
Kragen, Ken, president, USA for Africa and former personal manager for Harry Chapin 28
Leland, Hon. Mickey, a Representative in Congress from the State of Texas 17
Prepared statement 19
Mrazek, Hon. Robert J., a Representative in Congress from the State of New York 20
Prepared statement 22
Rogol, Marty, executive director, USA for Africa 30
Telegram from Kenny Rogers to Mr. Rogol 31

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE RECORD ON BEHALF OF H.R. 1207

Chapin, Sandy, prepared statement 37
Dorgan, Hon. Byron L., a Representative in Congress from the State of North Dakota, letter from Stephen B. Chapin dated April 30, 1986 35
Downey, Hon. Thomas J., a Representative in Congress from the State of New York, prepared statement 36
Fersh, Robert J., executive director, Food Research and Action Center, prepared statement 41

STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES ON BEHALF OF H.R. 4186

Gilman, Hon. Benjamin A., a Representative in Congress from the State of New York 50
Prepared statement 53
Lantos, Hon. Tom, a Representative in Congress from the State of California 59
Porter, Hon. John Edward, a Representative in Congress from the State of Illinois 58

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE RECORD ON BEHALF OF H.R. 4186

Shcharansky, Anatoly, statement as appeared in the Congressional Record taken from the New York Times dated April 14, 1986 61

TO PROVIDE GOLD MEDALS HONORING THE FAMILY OF HARRY CHAPIN; ANATOLY AND AVITAL SHCHARANSKY

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1986

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2222, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Frank Annunzio (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Chairman Annunzio; Representatives Hiler and Gonzalez.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The meeting of the subcommittee will come to order.

Will the witnesses take their seats at the table.

This morning the subcommittee meets to hear testimony on H.R. 1207, legislation authorizing the presentation of a specially struck congressional gold medal for the family of Harry Chapin. This medal would be presented by the President on behalf of the Congress in recognition of Harry Chapin's efforts to address issues of world hunger.

Pursuant to the rules of the subcommittee, no bill authorizing gold medals may be considered unless it is cosponsored by at least 218 Members, a majority of the House.

H.R. 1207 has 232 cosponsors, meeting the cosponsorship requirement. The cosponsorship requirement was instituted in 1980 to make certain that only events and individuals that have truly contributed to the history of this country will be considered for gold medals. The provision was intended to make certain that by requiring the support of a majority of the Members of the most democratic legislative body in the world, only the most important acts and individuals would be honored.

The issue of world hunger has been gaining increasing attention in the past several years, in large part due to drought and famine throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Harry Chapin worked to combat world hunger before such campaigns were fashionable. Unfortunately, his life ended in a tragic accident in 1981.

H.R. 1207 will honor and remember Harry Chapin's work in combating hunger around the globe.

[The text of H.R. 1207 follows:]

I

99TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1207

To award a special gold medal to the family of Harry Chapin.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 1985

Mr. DORGAN of North Dakota (for himself, Mr. DOWNEY of New York, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. MRAZEK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

---

A BILL

To award a special gold medal to the family of Harry Chapin.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to the family of Harry Chapin, a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of Harry Chapin's efforts to address issues of hunger around the world.

(b) For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be struck a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) Effective October 1, 1985, there are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $20,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Treasury may cause duplicates in bronze of the medal provided for in the first section to be coined and sold under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

(b) The appropriation used to carry out the first section shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of such sales.

SEC. 3. The medals provided for in this Act are national medals for the purpose of section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

○

Chairman ANNUNZIO. And now the ranking member on the subcommittee, a hard worker from Indiana, Mr. Hiler.

Mr. HILER. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for yielding, and I look forward to the testimony today and to the expeditious passing of this gold medal bill and hopefully its immediate move to the floor so that we can commemorate Harry Chapin, an outstanding individual in the cause of world hunger.

I yield back.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I thank you, Mr. Hiler.

I appreciate the fact that we have so many Members of Congress who wish to testify. I am trying to get these bills to the floor of the House, so it is necessary that I pass the bills out of the subcommittee today and then poll the full committee. I have permission to do that, and I am doing the best I can to get the bills to the floor. Hopefully, and I am not making any promises, but it is my intention to get the bills to the floor under suspension by Monday.

So, I will ask that each Member keep their remarks, and we are going to use a timer because we have so many, to 5 minutes each, and then your entire statement will be printed and made part of the record.

Our first witness this morning is our distinguished colleague from North Dakota, the Honorable Byron L. Dorgan. Congressman Dorgan is the At-Large Representative from the State of North Dakota. Now in his third term, Congressman Dorgan serves on the House Ways and Means Committee. In addition, he serves on the House Select Committee on Hunger. Given his deep concern with hunger in the world, it is appropriate that he is the sponsor of H.R. 1207 honoring someone who also was deeply concerned with that important issue.

I welcome you, my dear colleague, to the panel.

STATEMENT OF HON. BYRON L. DORGAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. DORGAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding these hearings. I have several distinguished colleagues who have joined me in this effort, and I am sure you are going to hear a great deal about a very special American at these hearings this morning.

This is the second Congress in which I introduced a bill to strike a gold medal in memory of Harry Chapin. I introduced this bill in the 98th Congress as well. In the 99th Congress, with the help of a lot of other Members, we were able to obtain sufficient signatures to bring it to this committee, and we hope for your favorable action.

I introduced legislation to strike a gold medal in memory of the late Harry Chapin because I think America should honor the memory of this special man.

In a rather long and lonely fight against world hunger, Harry Chapin gave hope and enthusiasm to millions of others to carry on that fight. He especially gave strength to those who are left behind to carry on the fight after he was so tragically killed in a car accident.

I first became aware of and got involved in world hunger issues largely because of Harry Chapin, and I suspect that there are others at this table who were inspired by his work.

From coast to coast Harry went around giving concerts because not only entertaining, but also involved in educational activity and donated a major amount of his time and money to organizing efforts to fight the causes of world hunger.

The last time I saw Harry was prior to a concert he was holding here in Washington, DC. He wasn't singing, but he had arranged for Kenny Rogers and Crystal Gayle to donate their time for a concert at the Capitol Centre. The Capitol Centre was full and the entire proceeds of that concert went to fight world hunger.

Now we see some people, Kenny Rogers and others, going around the country giving concerts and asking people to bring a can of food when they show up. Often 10 to 15,000 cans of food were collected at these concerts for food banks. The reason? Harry Chapin infected a lot of us with his enthusiasm to fight world hunger. That manifestation is not only here in Congress among those of us who appear before you today, but also people like Kenny Rogers and others out around the country entertaining and doing their work in ways that thread into this effort. We all share a common concern about trying to do something about this tragic affliction in the world.

Harry Chapin was a whirlwind of activity raging against a problem that many people feel is so big that they are almost helpless to respond. But Harry Chapin didn't feel that way. He decided that every one of us can make a difference if we fight to eliminate world hunger.

He was fond of saying that world hunger is not a headline issue. If tomorrow morning you wake up and you discover that 45,000 children under the age of 6 have died in the State of New Jersey, that would be the story of the year. Well that happened last night and yesterday. It was not a headline this morning because the winds of hunger blow every second, every minute, every day, and every week and it is just sort of something we accept.

We can do something about it if we and others combine to make the same kind of effort Harry made when he was living with us to fight this issue.

George Bernard Shaw said:

> Life is no brief candle for me. It is a splendid torch which I am allowed to carry but for a moment, and I intend to make it burn as brightly as possible before I pass it to future generations.

Harry Chapin carried that torch; he carried it very high and made it burn very brightly. That was the inspiration that led me to ask Congress to honor his memory by striking a gold medal.

At a time when we have witnessed human tragedy of massive proportions in the sub-Saharan region of Africa, and at a time when nearly 600 million people still go to bed at night with an ache in their stomach, it is important for us to stop and pay tribute to someone who inspired so many of us to carry that splendid torch of commitment to others.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether you ever had the opportunity to meet Harry Chapin, but those of us who did are better for it.

And I can say to you the world is a better place because Harry Chapin lived here. His work still lives, and that is the message I bring to you today.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Representative Dorgan follows:]

Testimony submitted to the

Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Coinage
Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

Congressman Byron L. Dorgan
(North Dakota)

May 1, 1986

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for this opportunity to come before the Committee.

I introduced legislation to strike a gold medal in memory of the late Harry Chapin because I think America should honor the memory of this special American. In a long and lonely fight against world hunger, Harry Chapin gave hope and enthusiasm to millions.

He gave strength to those he left behind to carry on the fight against world hunger after he was so tragically killed in a car accident.

Harry Chapin was an entertainer -- a singer -- a storyteller. He decided early in life to use his talent to make a difference for people in this world who have an ache in their stomachs because they don't have enough to eat.

From coast to coast, this troubadour singer donated a major amount of his time and money to organizing efforts to fight the causes of world hunger.

The last time I saw Harry Chapin was about two months before his death. He had organized a concert here in Washington, D.C. Kenny Rogers and Crystal Gayle performed to a packed house raising money to help alleviate world hunger. Harry was bubbling with ideas and talking excitedly about new projects and new ways to get people involved. He was always like that. That's what made him so special.

He was a one man whirlwind of activity, raging against a problem that many people feel is so big they are helpless to respond. But not Harry. He decided that all of us can make a difference in the fight to eliminate hunger in this world.

George Bernard Shaw said, "Life is no brief candle for me. It is a splendid torch which I am allowed to carry but for a moment, and I intend to make it burn as brightly as possible before I pass it on to future generations." Harry Chapin carried that torch and carried it high. He made it burn brightly, and he passed it to others. That's what this medal is about. It's a gold medal struck in his honor celebrating the inspiration and the dedication he passed to those of us who continue to fight against world hunger.

At a time when we have witnessed human tragedy of massive proportions in the Subsaharan regions of Africa and at a time when nearly 600 million people still go to bed a night with an ache in their stomach, it's important to stop and pay tribute to someone who inspired so many of us to carry that splendid torch of commitment to help others.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether you ever had the opportunity to meet Harry, but those of us who did are better because of it. I can say to you the world is a better place because Harry Chapin was here for 39 years. And his work still lives -- that's the important message here today.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much for your excellent statement, and your entire statement will be made part of the record.

I want to repeat again, you are being clocked and each one is being given 5 minutes. We have many, many witnesses and I am trying to get this bill to the floor by Monday.

Our next witness this morning is our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman. An attorney by profession, Mr. Gilman represents the 22d District of New York. The district straddles the beautiful Hudson River and stretches northwest to include much of New York's scenic Catskill Mountains.

Now in his seventh term in Congress, he serves on the Foreign Affairs and Post Office and Civil Service Committees, as well as the Select Committees on Narcotics and Hunger. Also, Mr. Gilman is on the board of directors of the World Hunger Year which was founded by Harry Chapin.

Mr. Gilman.

STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for your kind words and for the distinguished members of the committee to take this matter up at such a timely moment. And I am pleased that we have with us today Mrs. Chapin, who is seated behind us.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly commend you for holding this hearing. It is, as I am sure you will agree, long overdue that a man so distinguished in his humanitarian efforts as Harry Chapin receive full recognition for what he has achieved for, not only our Nation, but for the entire world.

Harry Chapin was a great humanitarian. He was an inspiring coworker in the cause of hunger, an outstanding gifted singer and song writer and a great friend to many of us.

Harry Chapin was an inspiration in the issue of resolving world hunger. He had dedicated his life to the problem which kills so many millions of people each and every year throughout the world.

Harry's devotion to his fellow man is well known, not only throughout the entertainment industry, but in voluntary hunger groups throughout our Nation and throughout the world.

His devotion of time and energy and his personal resources to the hunger cause have been an inspiration to many of us in the Congress and throughout government. Harry Chapin used his fame and fortune to start a nationwide grassroots movement to make Americans more aware of the scope of hunger around the world financing the organization with scores of benefit concerts.

In 1978 the concept of a Presidential Commission to study world hunger and to propose ways to fight it was nothing more than the product of an idealistic musician's restless conscience. However, now a full 5 years after the Commission had published its recommendations, the Congress and the world is still experiencing its reverberations.

The Select Committee on Hunger, another brainchild of Harry's, has had an enormous input in the way our Nation responds to the

hunger problem. The world grain reserve and many other far-reaching legislative initiatives were all the results of Harry's diligent and tireless work.

Harry Chapin was, as he would have put it, an energy source, a self-starter, an engine. Many of us have been overwhelmed by his boundless energy. Several Senators and Representatives were known to have succumbed to his proposals just to avoid being run down by that self-starter, that boundless energy.

Several other Senators and Representatives who knew and loved Harry were delighted with his no-nonsense manner of getting things done, and some even suggested he should have run for Congress.

Mr. Chairman, Harry once said that being a rock star is pointless. It's garbage. It's the most self-indulgent thing I can think of. I have got nothing against selling out, but let me sell out for something that counts. Not so Harry Chapin can be No. 1 with a bullet, but so I can leave here thinking that I mattered.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that Harry Chapin truly mattered. Believe me, he mattered, and that is why we are here today urging a gold medal in his honor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Representative Gilman follows:]

REMARKS BY THE

HONORABLE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

MAY 1, 1986

HEARING ON GOLD MEDAL FOR HARRY CHAPIN

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO COMMEND YOU FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING. IT IS, AS I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE, LONG OVERDUE THAT HARRY CHAPIN RECEIVE FULL RECOGNITION FOR WHAT HE ACHIEVED FOR OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

HARRY WAS A GREAT HUMANANITARIAN, AN INSPIRING CO-WORKER IN THE CAUSE OF HUNGER, AN OUTSTANDING GIFTED SINGER AND A GOOD FRIEND.

HARRY CHAPIN WAS A LEADER IN THE ISSUE OF RESOLVING WORLD HUNGER AND HAD DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THIS PROBLEM, WHICH KILLS SO MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE EVERY YEAR. HARRY'S DEVOTION TO HIS FELLOW MAN IS WELL KNOWN NOT ONLY THROUGHOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, BUT IN VOLUNTARY HUNGER GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

HIS DEVOTION OF TIME AND ENERGY AND HIS PERSONAL RESOURCES TO THE HUNGER CAUSE HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO MANY OF US IN THE CONGRESS AND THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT.

HE USED HIS FAME AND FORTUNE TO START A NATIONWIDE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT TO MAKE AMERICANS AWARE OF THE SCOPE OF HUNGER AROUND THE WORLD, FINANCING THE ORGANIZATION WITH SCORES OF BENEFIT CONCERTS.

IN 1978, THE CONCEPT OF A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY WORLD HUNGER AND PROPOSE WAYS TO FIGHT IT WAS NOTHING MORE, THEN, THAN THE PRODUCT OF AN IDEALISTIC MUSICIAN'S RESTLESS CONSCIENCE.

HOWEVER, NOW A FULL 5 YEARS AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS PUBLISHED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, THE CONGRESS AND THE WORLD IS STILL EXPERIENCING ITS REVERBERATIONS. THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER, A BRAINCHILD'S OF HARRY'S HAS HAD AN ENORMOUS INPUT ON THE WAY OUR NATION RESPONDS TO THE HUNGER PROBLEM.

THE WORLD GRAIN RESERVE AND MANY OTHER FAR-REACHING LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES WERE ALL OUTCOMES OF HARRY'S HARD AND TIRELESS WORK.

HARRY WAS, AS HE WOULD HAVE PUT IT, "AN ENERGY SOURCE," "A SELF-STARTER," "AN ENGINE."

PEOPLE OFTEN SUFFERED FROM MILD CASES OF EXHAUSTION MERELY BY BEING IN THE SAME ROOM WITH HIM FOR AN HOUR. SEVERAL SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WERE KNOWN TO HAVE AGREED TO HIS PROPOSALS PRIMARILY TO AVOID FURTHER DEALINGS WITH THE "THE ENGINE" -- IN THIS CASE A STEAM ENGINE. SEVERAL OTHER SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WHO KNEW AND LOVED HARRY WERE DELIGHTED WITH HIS NO-NONSENSE MANNER OF GETTING THINGS DONE AND SOME OF THEM SUGGESTED HE RUN FOR CONGRESS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, HARRY ONCE SAID: "BEING A ROCK STAR IS POINTLESS. IT'S GARBAGE. IT'S THE MOST SELF-INDULGENT THING I CAN THINK OF. I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST SELLING OUT. BUT LET ME SELL OUT FOR SOMETHING THAT COUNTS. NOT SO HARRY CHAPIN CAN BE NO. 1 WITH A BULLET, BUT SO I CAN LEAVE HERE THINKING I MATTERED."

MR. CHAIRMAN, HARRY CHAPIN MATTERED --- BELIEVE ME , HE MATTERED.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Gilman, for your excellent statement.

Our next witness is the Honorable Bob Carr, who represents the Sixth District of Michigan. He is an attorney serving his sixth term in the House. Congressman Carr was instrumental in the passage of legislation commemorating Live Aid Day and was one of only four original cosponsors of legislation marking Hands Across America, both events designed to increase awareness of and raise money to combat world hunger.

Mr. Carr.

STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CARR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. CARR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to associate myself with the remarks of the previous two speakers. I have a statement that I will submit for the record, and I just want to make a couple of observations.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Without objection, your entire statement will be made a part of the record.

Mr. CARR. On Capitol Hill we are accustomed to having performers and entertainers from the performing arts come and pay visits to us and we are always delighted to see them. There is a lot of picture taking. Staff and Members gather around seeking a lot of autographs for children, brothers and sisters and indeed for ourselves. In fact, we sometimes don't want to admit they are for ourselves and we say they are for our kids.

When they come around, we are delighted to see them. You have a nagging suspicion, however, that the whole appearance here on Capitol Hill is done for some ulterior motive, that some agent has decided that it is a good thing for a performer to sweep through Congress and Washington and get pictures in the paper and try to do something of a featurette nature that broadens the publicity angles for these performers, and I am sure that we would probably do the same.

Harry was a different kind of an individual, however. He would do those obligatory pictures and the obligatory autographs, but he would keep them to a minimum. And as he roamed around the Halls of Congress it was clear that Harry was here for more than publicity, and he was here for more than some kind of self-serving ego trip.

He was, I think, the first performer that I ever met who wanted to come into an office, and as my colleague said, with no nonsense. He didn't want to regale us with stories of his entertainment world. He wanted to find out what was happening here on Capitol Hill on how he could impact on this issue of world hunger.

I also saw Harry in a number of concerts, and he would give that same kind of second effort there after exhausting himself performing to his fans. He would frequently depart the stage, and instead of going, as so many do, back to a nice comfortable dressing room for some refreshment, Harry would trudge into the crowd, usually at the back of the auditorium and sell T-shirts and buttons and all manner of paraphernalia, shaking hands, and hand out kisses, but for a price. People had to make a donation to world hunger.

It is that kind of second effort that really captured our imagination here on Capitol Hill. That is one of the reasons why I enlisted in the Harry Chapin army to do something about world hunger. It was something that he talked about at a time when it wasn't making headlines. It was prophetic what he was doing.

I think in a real sense we were able to respond to the recent hunger crisis much better than we ever would have had there not been a Harry Chapin. There was that army out there ready to be mobilized, there were people out there who were ready to listen. A few years ago I went to a concert or I attended a congressional meeting where Harry Chapin was talking about world hunger. He said he would catch up with us and now it is happening.

So I think the American spirit was much more responsive when the call came because Harry had warned us about it and had told us about it.

I am just delighted that we would be considering honoring Harry in this way, but his true honor isn't going to be in any medal, I am sure. It is going to be in the continued work that all of us will do and the dedication that we apply to the vision that he had. I think the medal is just a milestone that we need to pass to reaffirm our dedication to those principles.

[The prepared statement of Representative Carr follows:]

Testimony of Rep. Bob Carr on H.R. 1207

May 1, 1986

Good morning Mr. Chairman. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the chance to testify.

Harry Chapin was a friend of mine. Not only was he a gifted songwriter and performer, but he was truly a compassionate and caring human being as well. He felt so deeply about his fellow human beings that in 1975, he and Bill Ayres began "World Hunger Year." Harry was also appointed a member and was really the founder of the Presidents Commission on World Hunger....which began in 1978. That same year, he opened the "Food Policy Center" which monitored the work of the Hunger Commission and helped draft legislation based on findings of the commission.

His interest and awareness of world hunger, combined with his knowledge of hunger issues, led millions of people to listen to his radiothons. These were conducted around the country....long before it was popular to do benefits for the hungry.

Harry Chapin was not the first entertainer to walk these hallways here in Washington, but he was probably among the first to come here and roll up his sleeves and work at it like he was a real part of the process....as he was. He personally got Members of Congress involved and aware of hunger issues.

This is how our friendship started.

We are now making headway in the fight against hunger...not only in the world....but within the borders of our country. We must not let this momentum die out.

That is why I strongly support and am joining 231 of my colleagues in supporting H.R. 1207, the bill that would authorize a gold medal for Harry Chapin. It can be the focal point for the continued fight against hunger.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Carr.

Our next witness is the Honorable Mickey Leland who is serving his fourth term in the House. He represents the 18th District of Texas in Houston. He is an effective champion and an advocate of the poor and underprivileged.

Through perseverance and hard work, the House approved his legislation creating the House Select Committee on Hunger, which he now chairs.

Mr. Leland.

STATEMENT OF HON. MICKEY LELAND, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. LELAND. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I really appreciate having the opportunity to make a statement in support of congressional recognition of Harry Chapin for his contribution to the effort to end hunger in the world.

As chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, I am keenly aware of the leadership and vision of Harry Chapin. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to meet him. However, on a personal note, I feel very much inspired by his legacy.

Through Harry Chapin and those who have carried on his work, an entirely new approach to developing public consciousness about hunger has emerged. Harry Chapin's interest in hunger began during the famine in the Sahel region of Africa in 1973 to 1974 and grew into a commitment which endured for his tragically brief life.

In a few years he created a great legacy through the Presidential Commission on Hunger, World Hunger Year, and the Food Policy Conference. These institutional forerunners contributed to the public understanding of the need for the House Select Committee on Hunger.

Harry Chapin might have been a very wealthy man. But, instead, he gave benefit concerts and spent his money on a cause he believed in. He spent valuable hours, as my colleagues have indicated, working with people in Washington searching out the complex causes and solutions to the problems of hunger.

He wasn't political, but he accomplished much in this political city. The greatest gift left to us by Harry Chapin was a new way of making the people of this country aware of hunger through music in the popular culture.

He was the first entertainer to use his widely recognized name and talent to raise questions about the tragedy of hunger and the world's capacity to eliminate it.

Today there is a growing cadre of singers, actors, dancers, comics, and other performers speaking out and donating talent following in Harry Chapin's very large footsteps.

It is these 20th century troubadours who are sustaining the effort to assure every child and adult sufficient nourishment for a healthy and productive life. Artists traditionally move the spirit of people to reach beyond themselves. Harry Chapin was such an artist.

He said, and I quote, "This Nation is looking for a vision." He gave us that vision, a world without hunger. We continue to reach

for the vision through the dedication of Harry Chapin's family and the friends he inspired, friends who are now today's leaders, people like Ken Kragen, Bill Ayres, Marty Rogol, and many, many others.

The vision is there for a new and vital generation of students and for ordinary people who are convinced that hunger is unnecessary.

Because of Harry Chapin's legacy, we are able to demonstrate that the people of this country care, that they respond and that they want to help.

I am pleased to support a posthumously awarded medal to an individual whose life and memory have inspired a new crusade.

Mr. Chairman, it is the least that we can do.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Representative Leland follows:]

STATEMENT OF REP. MICKEY LELAND, D-TX
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS
AND COINAGE
HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE
MAY 1, 1986

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE I APPRECIATE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF HARRY CHAPIN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFORT TO END HUNGER IN THE WORLD.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER I AM KEENLY AWARE OF THE LEADERSHIP AND VISION OF HARRY CHAPIN. THROUGH HARRY CHAPIN AND THOSE WHO HAVE CARRIED ON HIS WORK, AN ENTIRELY NEW APPROACH TO DEVELOPING PUBLIC CONSENSUS ABOUT HUNGER HAS EMERGED.

HARRY CHAPIN'S INTEREST IN HUNGER BEGAN DURING THE FAMINE IN THE SAHEL REGION OF AFRICA IN 1973-74 AND GREW INTO A COMMITMENT WHICH ENDURED FOR HIS TRAGICALLY BRIEF LIFE. IN A FEW YEARS HE CREATED A GREAT LEGACY THROUGH THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON WORLD HUNGER, WORLD HUNGER YEAR AND THE FOOD POLICY CONFERENCE. THESE INSTITUTIONAL FORERUNNERS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER.

HARRY CHAPIN MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MILLIONAIRE BUT INSTEAD HE GAVE BENEFIT CONCERTS AND SPENT HIS MONEY ON A CAUSE HE BELIEVED IN. HE SPENT VALUABLE HOURS WORKING WITH PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON SEARCHING OUT THE COMPLEX CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF HUNGER. HE WASN'T POLITICAL BUT HE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN THIS POLITICAL CITY.

THE GREATEST GIFT LEFT TO US BY HARRY CHAPIN WAS A NEW WAY OF MAKING THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AWARE OF HUNGER THROUGH MUSIC AND THE POPULAR CULTURE. HE WAS THE FIRST ENTERTAINER TO USE HIS WIDELY RECOGNIZED NAME AND TALENT TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TRAGEDY OF HUNGER AND THE WORLD'S CAPACITY TO ELIMINATE IT. TODAY THERE IS A GROWING CADRE OF SINGERS, ACTORS, DANCERS, COMICS AND OTHER PERFORMERS SPEAKING OUT AND DONATING TALENT, FOLLOWING IN HARRY CHAPIN'S VERY LARGE FOOTSTEPS. IT IS THESE TWENTIETH CENTURY TROUBADOURS WHO ARE SUSTAINING THE EFFORT TO ASSURE EVERY CHILD AND ADULT SUFFICIENT NOURISHMENT FOR A HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE LIFE.

ARTISTS TRADITIONALLY MOVE THE SPIRIT OF PEOPLE TO REACH BEYOND THEMSELVES. HARRY CHAPIN WAS SUCH AN ARTIST. HE SAID, "THIS NATION IS LOOKING FOR A VISION." HE GAVE US THAT VISION -- A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER. WE CONTINUE TO REACH FOR THE VISION THROUGH THE DEDICATION OF HARRY CHAPIN'S FAMILY AND THE FRIENDS HE INSPIRED, FRIENDS WHO ARE NOW TODAY'S LEADERS -- KEN KRAGEN, BILL AYRES, MARTY ROGOL AND OTHERS. THE VISION IS THERE FOR A NEW AND VITAL GENERATION OF STUDENTS AND FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT HUNGER IS UNNECESSARY.

BECAUSE OF HARRY CHAPIN'S LEGACY WE ARE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY CARE, THAT THEY RESPOND, THAT THEY WANT TO HELP. I AM PLEASED TO SUPPORT A POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED MEDAL TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE LIFE AND MEMORY HAVE INSPIRED A NEW CRUSADE.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Leland, and your entire statement will be made part of the record.

Our next witness is our distinguished colleague, Bob Mrazek who represents the Third District of New York located on the north shore of Long Island.

While in the county legislature, Mr. Mrazek worked for years on charitable causes with Harry Chapin. Congressman Mrazek is in his second term, and he serves on the Appropriations Committee.

We welcome you before the subcommittee. You have 5 minutes and, without objection, your entire statement will be made part of the record.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT J. MRAZEK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. MRAZEK. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Hiler.

I want to offer some comments on the man that I knew.

I am convinced that Harry Chapin could have been anything he wanted to be in this life. He was as charismatic as any human being I have ever met. And with that remarkable talent as a poet, as a writer, as a singer, as a filmmaker and as a politician, he had the kind of inexhaustible drive that I have seen in so very few people.

I have seen some politicians, and I am sure you, too, have, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Hiler, who have inexhaustible stamina and drive. I have met a couple who have run for President of the United States, and yet they were driven to a larger extent by their own ambition.

Harry Chapin was driven by causes and by ideas and trying to make those ideas a reality. He knew he lived in a country in which one State, the State of Nebraska could feed every human being on the continent of Africa. Yet millions of people die of starvation every year.

I am proud to represent the district where Harry Chapin, with his wife, Sandy, chose to make their home and raise their children. I was privileged to be at that home on so many occasions where it was clear that Harry had come back to recharge his batteries. His children and his wife were his friends and not just a wife and children. They were his friends and his support mechanisms.

It was almost as if he knew he had to pack it all into around 40 years. In certain respects many of us probably resented Harry for his boundless energy. For many of us, it is sometimes difficult just to get out of bed in the morning, or to find our car keys on a given day. Harry was a man who just never seemed to slow down. I never saw this man depressed. I always saw him reaching out, ready to leap into his car or bounding into rooms and bounding out of rooms.

He had an ability to make friends because he just gave off this aura, this spirit inside, which was very religious in its own way. I never heard him proselytize or be evangelical about religion.

It was an energy that allowed him to go into high schools all over this country and in my district. I can remember going to a high school a couple of years after Harry died, and asking a group

of students who they admired most in this world today. I was amazed at how many of them raised their hands and said Harry Chapin, because Harry Chapin had been there.

One young woman referred to Harry as, "my friend, Harry Chapin." I talked to her afterward and she had only met Harry for a span of maybe a minute or two but in that minute he had touched her life.

Harry Chapin leaves behind him an indelible impression on the lives of so many people like Ben Gilman, Bob Carr and myself, and a lot of young people. Many of these people will be tomorrow's leaders because of the impact and impression Harry Chapin had on their lives.

I agree with Bob Carr, this medal does not make up for the loss we all feel for what this one human being would have continued to be on behalf of world hunger and the other causes he believed in. But it is certainly a mark that signifies for his family, for his children, and for so many people who believed in Harry Chapin that he is recognized by the U.S. Congress with the highest medal we can offer to a citizen of our country.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Representative Mrazek follows:]

HARRY CHAPIN: A RETROSPECTIVE

by U.S. REP. ROBERT J. MRAZEK

Harry Chapin, I'm convinced, could have been anything he wanted to be in this life.

He was as charismatic as any human being I have ever met. And, along with his remarkable talents as a poet, writer, singer, film maker, athlete and citizen-activist, he had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy that is found in very few people.

In the past 20 years, I have met a handful of elected officials who possessed the same stamina and drive, including one who ran successfully for president of the United States. Yet, they were all primarily driven by their own personal ambition.

Harry Chapin was driven by causes and ideas, and by his zeal to make his causes a reality.

For example, he was well aware that in our own land, the wealthiest nation in the world, farmers in just the state of Nebraska could grow enough wheat and corn to feed every human being on the continent of Africa— and yet millions of people were dying there of starvation every year.

At the same time, he was well aware that our government was paying farmers billions of dollars each year not to grow food. So he set out with his wife Sandy to help build a world where no child on this planet would go to bed hungry.

He died while trying to make that dream a reality— killed while driving to one of his long list of benefit programs. It was hard for many of us to believe that a spirit as strong as Harry's could be quenched by anything, even the Long Island Expressway.

(MORE)

2-2-2-2

It was almost as if he knew he had to pack his life's work into just 40 years. For those of us who sometimes find it difficult just to get out of bed in the morning, or to select the clothes we're going to wear, it was sometimes hard to be around a man who never seemed to slow down.

In fact, I never saw him depressed. He always seemed to be going flat out-- whether he was bounding into a room, or leaping into his car and speeding off because he was already late for his next event.

He had an ability to make a friend in just minutes. Harry projected an aura, an inner spirit, which was very religious in its own way, although I never heard him proselytize or be evangelical about religion.

In addition to performing, writing Broadway plays, and converting sometimes cynical Washington politicians, Harry loved to visit high schools. He would challenge students to set high goals for their lives.

Once, a couple of years after he died, I was at Northport High School, and at one point, asked who the students most admired in the world today. Amazingly, several of them said the late Harry Chapin.

One young woman in the class described him as "my friend, Harry Chapin." I talked to her afterward, and she had only met Harry for a span of perhaps two minutes. But he had touched her life. He leaves behind an indelible impression on the lives of many young people-- men and women who are going to be tomorrow's leaders-- because of the impact he made on them.

Recently, we voted to honor the memory of Harry Chapin with a specially struck Congressional Gold Medal. Other recipients of the medal have comprised a virtual pantheon of American greatness: Thomas A. Edison, Maj. Walter Reed, Charles A. Lindbergh, Dr. Jonas E. Salk, Robert Frost, Walt Disney, Robert F. Kennedy and Elie Wiesel, among others.

(MORE)

3-3-3-3

This medal does not make up for the loss we feel for what this single human being could have done on behalf of world hunger, and the other causes he championed. But it is certainly a mark that signifies for his wife and partner, Sandy, for his children and for so many people who believed in Harry Chapin that his life achievement was recognized by the United States Congress with the highest peacetime honor we can offer to a citizen of our country.

There is a picture of Harry on the wall of my office in Washington. It was taken at one of the many benefit functions he helped to organize in Huntington— some kind of Hawaiian luau. In the photograph, Harry is not singing a song, or regaling an attentive audience with one of his wonderful stories.

There was a thunderstorm that afternoon, and in the photograph Harry is standing out in the rain. His Hawaiian pineapple shirt is plastered to his chest as he shows confused guests where to park their cars.

Harry loved Long Island. Those of us privileged to know him will remember him to the day we die.

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Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Mrazek, for a very, very touching, emotional and sincere statement. It was excellent.

I want to express my deep appreciation to all of my colleagues for being here this morning and for cooperating with the Chair and Mr. Hiler. We are attempting to expedite this as soon as we can in order to get the legislation to the floor on Monday.

Do you have any questions?

Mr. HILER. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. If not, thank you very much.

Our second panel, Mrs. Sandy Chapin and Jim Chapin, the brother, would you and Mrs. Chapin take your seats, Ken Kragen, Marty Rogol, and Bill Ayres.

I welcome the five panelists this morning to our hearing. You were in the audience, and I want to repeat that you are all going to be assigned 5 minutes. The record will be kept open, so that if you have a statement to submit, your statement will be made part of the full and complete record.

I welcome you here this morning and I am looking forward to your testimony, and I am especially grateful that Mrs. Chapin and the brother, Jim Chapin, are here this morning on behalf of the legislation.

Mr. Hiler.

Mr. HILER. I, too, am happy to have this panel here and to have Mrs. Chapin and Mr. Chapin, and I look forward to their testimony. I think the testimony of those who knew Harry Chapin on the periphery was poignant, and I am sure it will be just as poignant to those who were intimately involved, and I look forward to hearing your comments.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Our first witness is Mrs. Sandy Chapin, the wife of Harry Chapin.

Will you proceed in your own manner.

STATEMENT OF SANDY CHAPIN, WIFE OF HARRY CHAPIN

Mrs. CHAPIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Hiler.

I am very grateful to the Member of Congress who have been supporting the efforts toward this medal, and to Congressman Dorgan who has been leading this effort.

I would like to say that Harry loved this country, and he used to say that more than anything else he believed in the Constitution of the United States and the fact that it stood for human rights and human needs, and he was going to make his life stand for carrying that out.

And he loved the people of this country. He often said that what he was doing was he was working to try to eliminate hunger or working to promote arts because he thought that it brought out the humanity in people's lives.

He called what he was doing selfish or enlightened self-interest because he felt that he was the one who gained because he used to quote Pete Siegert and say that every day he had to get up and go out to be with the live eyes, the live hearts and the live minds.

He felt very strongly, as some of the witnesses have said, that each man should feel that he could make a difference and that his

life did matter. But I think it is important to realize that Harry was trying to do two things at the same time.

He was trying to motivate other people to listen to him and to believe what he believed by shouting, by scolding, by singing and by cajoling. He wanted to influence. At the same time, he knew that he couldn't do anything alone and he believed very firmly in the sense of working together in community.

When he came to Washington, he did go by himself throughout the halls and offices, but he also met with all of the leaders of the major national organizations representing other antihunger efforts in this country. And it was because of that united effort that it was possible to have the Presidential Commission on Hunger.

More than anything else, Harry was trying to promote the idea of self-reliance, self-reliance in himself and self-reliance in the people whose lives he touched and self-reliance for the underprivileged in our country.

And because I have laryngitis, I have prepared a statement of trying to put across Harry's ideas about food self-reliance for those in need in this country.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement referred to appears on page 37 in the record.]

Chairman ANNUNZIO. We thank you very much for your statement. I know how difficult it has been, but your statement is beautiful and your other statement or whatever you want to add will be made part of the official record.

We thank you very, very much for being with us this morning and for your testimony.

Jim, the brother of Harry.

STATEMENT OF JIM CHAPIN, THE BROTHER OF HARRY CHAPIN

Mr. CHAPIN. It is an unusual task to talk about your own brother to a congressional committee. Those of you who have brothers know that there is nobody more ruthless in their judgment than brothers. Although you love your brothers, you are also very ruthless when you judge them and you look at them, and that's especially true when your younger brother was better known and more famous and more successful than you in worldly ways and in many other ways as well.

After Harry's death, I was left in the position of keeping his work going without his ability to raise $5,000 in a night.

The fact that World Hunger Year, the organization which he founded has survived so long, is really a tribute to Harry Chapin and the example that he inspired. I have read thousands of letters over the last 5 years from people whose lives were influenced and changed by Harry Chapin. These are the people who kept World Hunger Year going. And if the test of a person's greatness is when this person's life influenced others for the better, then Harry has passed this test.

So when you ask if Harry Chapin should be someone we honor, I say yes, he should be honored because we define ourselves by who we choose to honor. When we talk about Harry Chapin, we are talking about a man who deserves to be honored, a great man and

a good man. The two words should go together, but they often don't. In other words, there are many people we call great men who are not good men, and when you think about that, that is a very bad thing indeed.

One of the reasons that Harry was a great man was that he felt better when other people felt good. And when you think about the people who are involved in good works or charity as we sometimes call it, sometimes in a demeaning way, there is a reason why every great religion talks about charity.

You remember when Jesus Christ said "even as you treat the least of these so you treat me." We often forget that. Every other great religion says the same things in different ways that the way we treat the poor is the way that we treat Almighty God. We often forget what the real meaning of that phrase is, but every one of us is alive today only because somebody else took care of us when we were young. When we were born we were powerless and we were helpless. That is a characteristic of the human species for many years at the beginning of its life.

So the mere fact of our life is something that we owe to other people who kept us alive as infants. And every one of us at the end of our lives is going to be powerless and is going to die, which is the ultimate powerlessness. In other words, no matter how rich or how successful or how famous we are, we are all going to face that one moment at the end. And when we leave this world we are not going to be able to take anything with us. That is the one thing we know.

So all of the life styles of the rich and famous that we may have between the moment of our birth and the moment of our death are not going to change the fact that we are going to die and we are going to die powerless and we are going to die helpless.

If you think about that, you understand the essential equality of all human beings and the essential sameness that all of us have in the way we have to reach out to other human beings.

And I think the difference between Harry and many other people who did good works was that he understood that. He didn't really think he was doing good for other people by stretching his hand down to them as so many people do.

The most demeaning thing about charity often is that people who give give as a way of separating themselves from other people. They feel that this person is not the same as me; I am better. This person is in the gutter and I am up here, and I deserve to be here. But we are going to end the same way as the person in the gutter. We are going to die. Harry understood that essential equality of all people.

An important quality I think, besides the energy and the love that other people have spoken of, is a curious way the naivete of Harry Chapin. There is a very good line in the Peters and Austin book on "Fostering Excellence" which talks about naive listening. He did that a lot. He went and asked simple-minded questions, and simple-minded questions which many times have been given complex answers that don't explain very much.

For instance, why is it that there is so much hunger in this world when there are so many natural resources in this world? As a matter of fact, we are drowning in surpluses of every possible

thing here in this country. We have too much apparently. We have too much iron and we have too much steel and we have too much copper and we have too much food and too many people who want to work, and yet somehow people starve even in this country. The same thing is true in the world. There's surplus of goods and at the same time people starve.

Harry Chapin understood that and he understood it by asking naive questions, by going out and talking in a naive fashion and listening. When he started his whole involvement in hunger he knew nothing. He learned by asking. He learned that hunger comes not from shortages, but from powerlessness. He learned that the way to end hunger was to give the poor and powerless the tools and the money and the ability to feed themselves.

What he left behind was a tradition of innovation, a tradition of asking questions and an American tradition in the deepest sense of America, of people involved in the idea that all of us can help each other. You can't imagine a Harry Chapin in many other countries in this world, and that is one of the best things you can say about America.

And if an American Congress chooses to honor a man like this, it is saying to other people, it is saying to young people, it is saying that this is the model of what we want our country to be about. I think it is a great thing that it should happen, and I really hope that it does.

Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Jim. That is an excellent statement.

Ken Kragen, president of USA for Africa and former personal manager for Harry Chapin.

Mr. Kragen.

STATEMENT OF KEN KRAGEN, PRESIDENT, USA FOR AFRICA AND FORMER PERSONAL MANAGER FOR HARRY CHAPIN

Mr. KRAGEN. Thank you very much.

A little more than a year ago on January 28, 45 American stars, pop and country and music stars, got together and recorded a song that has somewhat become the anthem for these times, "We Are The World."

And then last summer at concerts in Philadelphia and in London, many, many, many other musical stars got together and performed for hunger in the world.

In the past year or 18 months or so it has become quite fashionable to do charity work in our industry and throughout the world now. It has become almost a fad, and certainly a good fad in its approach. That's what has happened.

But Harry Chapin, who was my friend and my client, was involved in the strongest way possible with these causes before it was ever fashionable and before there was anyone else. He was almost out there alone at times fighting. I sometimes almost thought of him as Don Quixote against windmills because it seems like the task he had taken on was so enormous and he was so almost alone doing it.

It certainly wasn't fashionable and it certainly wasn't something that in any way enhanced Harry except in the eyes of all who knew him and realized this incredible man.

I never met a man like Harry Chapin, and you have heard it from others. He was exceptional. I quite frankly felt that his loss was an irreplaceable loss to the whole world.

But I had an experience, a personal experience that I need to share with you because it will explain to you how much I feel he is the inspiration for what so many of us have done.

I was privileged to put together the song "We Are The World" and make that event happen. I was in New York City a week or two later driving around, having meetings and trying to create the atmosphere for the launching of that record and that whole project.

I suddenly stepped back to look at myself and realized that I was doing exactly what Harry had done, devoting incredible hours and incredible energy all the time, every day to these causes and these problems. And at that moment in time I had the very eerie but very real feeling that he had crawled up inside of me and that he was somehow controlling everything that was happening.

It was an experience for me like none other I have had in my whole life. I am not a strongly religious person and it was a religious experience. It has stayed with me. And it is hard to talk about Harry Chapin for me without being emotional because I felt that he is probably the greatest loss in my life.

Had Harry been alive today, he would be the physical leader of our efforts, not Bob Gildoff, not Kenny Rogers and not Ken Kragen, but Harry Chapin. His charisma, his drive and his energy was unequalled. Although he isn't here in physical presence, he is clearly the spiritual leader. He is the one who put us all on the path that we have carried out in this last year.

Very briefly I would like to share with you the human side of Harry in connection with Washington. There are a couple of quick stories.

He came to the White House quite often in the days when he was attempting to get the Select Committee on Hunger started and the Commission on Hunger, the Presidential Commission on Hunger. One of the first times he came, he had a group of papers in his hand and he bent over at the door of the White House and dropped them, and as he bent over to pick them up his pants split completely down the back. So he spent the rest of the day in the White House up against the wall attempting to conceal the fact that he was meeting with the President and others and had the back of his pants split open.

Another time, and a more significant time is when he was there when the President signed the legislation which created the Commission on Hunger. The President was sitting signing the legislation and Harry was still standing over him pitching him on why this was so important. And Senator Leahy leaned over and whispered into Harry's ear, and he said, "Harry, he is signing it. You can quit selling him on it now." It was typical of Harry that he never quit, and it was typical of Harry that he inspired all the rest of us never to quit.

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Winston Churchill has said that the price of greatness is responsibility. Harry Chapin was a human being who took responsibility. And I think that it is important that we reward him for it and tell the world about his greatness.

Thank you very much.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Kragen.

Mr. Rogol, executive director of USA for Africa.

STATEMENT OF MARTY ROGOL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, USA FOR AFRICA

Mr. ROGOL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would first like to include a telegram which I would like to read.

"Gentlemen, if ever a person deserved recognition for deeds done, it is Harry Chapin.

"Never in all my life have I met anyone who was so giving and unselfish with his time and energy. It would have been easy for a person of Harry's stature to live his own life and ignore the needs of others. The opposite was the case. He cared so much about others that he sometimes overlooked his own needs.

"Thank you for what you are doing and thank God for the Harry Chapins of the world.

"Respectfully, Kenny Rogers."

[The telegram referred to by Mr. Rogol follows:]

western union **Telegram**

2138587061 TDRN BEVERLY HILLS CA 90 04-30 0545P EST
PMS MARTY ROGOL MAYFLOWER HOTEL, DLR 4-30, DLR
1127 CONNECTICUT AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036
GENTLEMEN: IF EVER A PERSON DESERVED RECOGNITION FOR DEEDS DONE, ITS MARRY CHAPIN. NEVER IN ALL MY LIFE HAVE I MET ANYONE WHO WAS SO GIVING AND UNSELFISH WITH HIS TIME AND ENERGY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR A PERSON OF MARRY'S STATURE TO LIVE HIS OWN LIFE AND IGNORE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS...[redacted] THE OPPOSITE WAS THE CASE. HE CARED SO MUCH ABOUT OTHERS HE SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED HIS OWN NEEDS. THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND THANK GOD FOR THE "MARRY CHAPINS" OF THE WORLD.
RESPECTFULLY,
KENNY ROGERS

WU 1201-SF (05-88)

Mr. ROGOL. I would like to just, especially in lieu of your admonition to get this bill to the floor quickly, reiterate something that Ken Kragen has said, and I think people need to understand in perspective the impact that Harry has had.

Very little of what has gone on since the footage on Ethiopia appeared, would have happened in terms of the public response had it not been for the foundation established by Harry Chapin. Kenny Rogers and Ken Kragen would not be involved in the issue, I would not be involved in the issue. USA for Africa would not have been and "We Are The World" as a song would probably not be there today. Live Aid as the concert was able to happen because "We Are The World" was a success as a song.

Our new project, Hands Across America, was another outgrowth. The original phone call to Ken Kragen from Harry Belafonte to start the process would not have happened had Harry Belafonte not performed with Harry Chapin in benefit concerts throughout the country.

So we are looking at a pyramiding of activities on a scale that is unprecedented, and the core for those events happening and us being where we are today in terms of the awareness and the visibility and the activity on this issue really goes back to the root, and the root is Harry Chapin.

Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Rogol.

Now Mr. Bill Ayres, executive director of World Hunger Year.

Mr. Ayres.

STATEMENT OF BILL AYRES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD HUNGER YEAR

Mr. AYRES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hiler, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Prins.

Harry Chapin was my friend and my partner, and I, too, find it very difficult to talk about him without being emotional.

I met Harry Chapin in 1973 in October. He came on my radio show as a guest and we became friends. He invited me over to dinner a number of times, and one night I said to him that we ought to try to do another Bangladesh type concert for the victims of the drought in the Sahel and the famine in Ethiopia. That was the case in the mid-1970's as well as a couple of years ago.

We tried working with the United Nations and we failed miserably for a number of reasons. But we learned a great deal from that. We learned that what you need is a commitment and a process and not simply an event. And Harry Chapin made a commitment to spend the rest of his life, we both made a commitment to spend the rest of our lives being involved with dealing with hunger.

We started an organization called World Hunger Year. It was his idea because he believed that we needed an organization that would be at the service of other organizations that were doing good work to make sure that their voice was heard because we knew many, many stories of very courageous people who were doing marvelous work in the fields of hunger who never had access to the media and who never got to tell their story.

So we started World Hunger Year principally for that purpose, and that is still its principal purpose, to get the word of hungry people and people who are working on hunger into the public forum.

To start that we did something that was very unique at that time and still is I think. We did hungerthons. We went on about a dozen radio stations around the country and spent 24 hours talking about hunger and inviting performers from the arts as well as people from the political world and various hunger experts on a domestic and international and even local level and we reached something like 15 or 20 million people.

Those things died for a while after Harry Chapin died, but we have gotten them started again. We did one just last November in New York. I did one this past weekend in Detroit.

The work of Harry Chapin lives on even though Harry has been dead for almost 5 years now. We started some local organizations because at that time there wasn't the great hunger in this country that there is now. Tragically we have lost an awful lot of ground as you in the Congress well know because of the budget cuts, because of unemployment, and also because of the regressive tax policy.

So we started three small organizations, the New York City Food and Hunger Hotline, Long Island Cares, and Center for Food Action in New Jersey. Each of those groups has touched the lives of tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people.

In New Jersey the folks organized all of the food pantries in New Jersey and set up a whole coalition in New Jersey.

The food and hunger hotline organized 300 foot pantries and 30 soup kitchens throughout New York City at a time when those things did not exist.

So this notion of local self help was something that Harry Chapin had a hand in right at the beginning. You have heard the stories about the Presidential Hunger Commission, and Harry was the first one to say that that was not his idea, but the idea of his wife, Sandy Chapin.

One of the unique things about Harry was, as James mentioned, he listened to people, and he took ideas and ran with them, but never used them as his own. The World Hunger Media Awards were not his idea. They were his brother James' idea, but he took that to Ken Kragen, who took it to Kenny Rogers and it now is a very prestigious and important event every year at the United Nations.

We also worked very carefully over the years with people in the media, and just recently we have established something called hunger line to try to make sure that the kind of thing that happened in Ethiopia will not happen again, and that the media will not be allowed to bypass a tragic event as it unfolds.

Our hope is that in the next couple of years to be talking about so many of the hot spots that exist throughout the world and in right in our own country.

So in summary I think what you have heard today is that one man, a very remarkable individual, had a very large impact on thousands of people while he was alive. But what is even more unique is that that impact has mushroomed and has increased a thousandfold since his death largely through the work of these two

gentlemen at my left here, Ken Kragen and Marty Rogol, but also because of the work of his family who have kept not only his music but also his ideals going.

And I think the notion of touching the minds and hearts of thousands of young people, as well as the bellies of millions of hungry people is a very important part of the Harry Chapin legacy.

I am delighted that he will be honored, we hope, with a medal from the Congress.

Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Ayres.

I want to announce that I have finally received definite word that sometime this morning when we meet in executive session that we will be passing this legislation out of the subcommittee. It will be referred to the full committee and it will be before the full House under suspension of the rules on Monday, and probably sometime between 1, 2 or 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon it will be final with final passage in the House.

Mr. Hiler.

Mr. HILER. Mr. Chairman, at this time would you like to move the passage of the bill, or do you want to go into executive session?

Chairman ANNUNZIO. After our statements.

Mr. Gonzalez, would you like to say something?

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wish to thank you and congratulate you for moving ahead expeditiously on this, and to thank all of the witnesses that were willing to come and invest their time in recognizing a true hero.

It has often been said, but very seldom honored, that peace has its heroes, perhaps in more meaningful ways than war, and I think this is a perfect example. I think that the token recognition through the striking of a gold medal is just an infinitely small way to recognize this tremendous contribution, and I applaud you in your leadership and very enthusiastically join you in this effort.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I want to thank all of the witnesses, the Members of Congress, the members of the family, the friends and manager, all of you for being here.

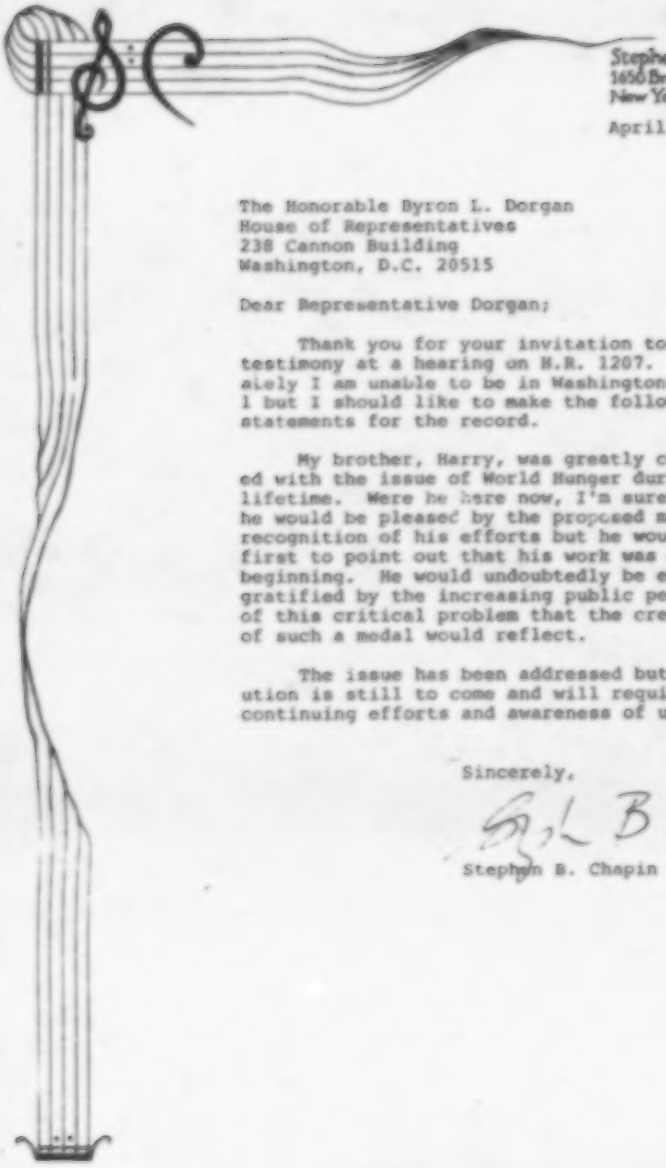
I must say that I never met Harry Chapin, but after hearing the testimony today, I sincerely wish that I had. I just feel that I have missed something.

I appreciate you all being here. Thank you very much.

The subcommittee will now go into executive session. You are all invited to watch the proceeding.

[Whereupon at 10:55 a.m., the subcommittee proceeded into executive session.]

[The following material regarding Harry Chapin and H.R. 1207 was received by the subcommittee for inclusion in the record:]



Stephen Chapin
1650 Broadway, Suite 610
New York, NY 10019 (212) 765-8680

April 30, 1986

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
House of Representatives
238 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dorgan;

Thank you for your invitation to present testimony at a hearing on H.R. 1207. Unfortunately I am unable to be in Washington on May 1 but I should like to make the following statements for the record.

My brother, Harry, was greatly concerned with the issue of World Hunger during his lifetime. Were he here now, I'm sure that he would be pleased by the proposed medal in recognition of his efforts but he would be the first to point out that his work was only a beginning. He would undoubtedly be even more gratified by the increasing public perception of this critical problem that the creation of such a medal would reflect.

The issue has been addressed but the solution is still to come and will require the continuing efforts and awareness of us all.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Chapin

STATEMENT OF REP. THOMAS J. DOWNEY

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to present this statement for the record.

As an original co-sponsor of legislation to strike a Congressional Gold Medal for Harry Chapin, I would like to stress its importance to my colleagues.

Most people remember Harry for his great songs. "Cat's in the Cradle," "20,000 Pounds of Bananas," and "Taxi" are just a few that come to mind. I too remember Harry for his music, but most of all I remember him as a friend.

Harry believed in many things. His devotion to his music was surpassed only by his devotion to the eradication of human suffering. Half of Harry's quite substantial earnings went to help those less fortunate than himself. But Harry gave more than money. He gave his time and his passion to the causes he embraced.

Because of Harry Chapin there are less hungry people in the world. Of how many men or women can that be said? It's quite a legacy he left us. Harry once said, "Being a rock star is pointless. It's garbage. It's the most self-indulgent thing I can think of. I've got nothing against selling out. But let me sell out for something that counts...so I can leave here thinking I mattered."

Harry was the least self-indulgent man I ever met. He never sold out and he certainly did matter. If this gold medal will remind us and make us work hard for the type of world Harry Chapin envisioned, then it is certainly worth whatever it costs.

STATEMENT OF SANDY CHAPIN

HARRY CHAPIN
FOUNDATION, INC.

Ruthig, Executive Director

"In a world that has enough food to feed everybody twice over, and yet half a billion people are starving, and a country where there is enough food to feed everybody six times over and yet twenty million Americans are malnourished, there is something basically wrong in the structure."

- Harry Chapin-

The Harry Chapin Food Self-Reliance Award was initiated with very definite goals in mind: 1) to further the understanding of self-reliance by identifying organizations that demonstrate how it works; 2) to recognize and support those groups and spread good news and specific strategies; 3) to create a network for communication and advocacy in order to encourage one another, to generate new ideas and actions; and to form an alliance to improve financial support and responsible government partnerships.

Just a decade ago food self-relaince was a new concept. It was widely believed that hunger was caused by natural disaster - and cured through charitable emergency aid. Today we have assimilated the term into everday language. We know it is the right term to apply to "all our good intentions." We are just beginning to distinguish the difference between packaging our good intentions and imposing them on a community, and listening to the people in the community as they set agendas to work toward economic self-reliance and social change.

Harry Chapin was among the first to stress the cause/effect relationship between poverty and hunger. People are hungry because they are poor. But, "identifing poverty as the basic cause of hunger is only half of the poverty/hunger equation. It remains to articulate the causes of poverty which are: inadequate access to income-producing assets and the power to decide how to use them, and the distribution of their benefits." (Appendix, Report to the President's Commission on World Hunger, 1978) Poverty is also: discrimination,

P.O. Box 538 / 18 West Carver Street / Huntington, New York 11743 / Telephone: (516) 423-7568

illiteracy, dependency, economic-social-political structures that maintain poverty.

Our commitment to the poor is a commitment to a just society which celebrates the dignity of all its members. Our commitment is to the right and the responsibility of all members to participate fully in this democratically ordered society, and to the establishment of the means for that participation.

If the hungry are to feed themselves, then change must occur; change within the person or community; change within the system or structure; change within the environment, our understandings and perceptions. Social change involves risk-taking. It requires the examination of myths (stereo-types and fictions) as well as realities; it requires non-traditional approaches to problem-solving, and the establishment of alternative systems and/or structures when necessary. Social change also requires an emphasis on a <u>just and responsible</u> stewardship of our resources.

Harry emphasized our intention to accept as our own, the agendas of the community in need. Again, it is their needs, understandings, goals and responsibilities which will ultimately determine our direction, program development and resource allocation. Rather than work from the vantage point of need/deficiency, we must build upon strength and capability -- the talents, skills, resources, dreams and accomplishments of the community. This means a commitment to the dynamics of change rather than service provision.

There is something powerful happening in America today. New demonstrations! Not the mass protest of the 1960's of public indignation, but a quiet revolution in demonstrations of communities of concerned citizens committed to their neighborhoods, restructuring their towns and counties for new life. Communities that are tired of feeling alienated and powerless, tired of feeling victimized by aloof and remote bureaucratic red tape. Communities that are saying, "This is my neighborhood, it is my job to make it better. We can do it!" Like Delhi County, New York, falling from a highly productive agricultural economy, adjusting

to dairy farming monoculture, to depression and collapse. Until a crossection of community leaders, who would not accept failure have begun to rebuild through new diversified farming and fishing industries. Like Hartford, Ct., the 4th poorest city in the United States, abandoned by industry and services, by builders and supermarkets -- now have pooled resources to develop hydroponics lettuce farms and a cooperative store, appropriately named "Our Store," which has recruited nearly 1,000 member households and over $62,000 in member equity in just one year. "Our Store" provides the "Grocery Shuttle" to senior citizens and home delivery to the disabled. "Our Store" is also attracting attention from other localities looking at cooperative supermarkets as a way to bring food retailing back into the city.

People are showing what they can do, where they can do it best -- at home. In the communities where they live and work, where they know the special needs and the resources and skills to mobilize and meet those needs. Self-Reliance means putting skills to work.

The deficiency approach teaches the ability to become clients. The capacity approach focuses on tapping the ability to become producers.

This year's recipients of the Harry Chapin Food Self-Reliance Award are Dade City, Florida, Farmworkers Self-Help Inc. and S.H.A.R.E., Inc. of Lisbon, Ohio.

Dade City looked at its capacities and generated resources within the community to solve their own problems. The food needs of undocumented aliens necessitated a food bank. But it was the farmworkers, as contributors and producers, that generated the multi-dimensional programs in community power. Job Training, Legal Services to Farmworkers, Nutrition Education, English Classes, Political Committees around local, state and federal food issues.

S.H.A.R.E., Inc. looked at its capacities and generated programs that brought retired citizens, welfare clients together in a job bank for temporary employment to preserve the self-worth of unemployed steelworkers. A farm/home for

troubled young men, senior volunteers and community action groups developed a farming pilot, food buying clubs, farmers markets and surplus food for over twelve hundred low-income families.

Awareness, Advocacy, Action, Alliances, in Self-Reliance are restructuring our communities. Alliances between neighbors, between agencies, between generations, between communites. We are demonstrating the potential for change.

Hopefully, Harry Chapin kicked off a new beginning for all of us. By the mid 1970's hunger was all but abolished in the United States, largely because of legislated programs in foodstamps, school lunch and WIC programs. Today it is on the rise because of drastic cuts in those same programs. Harry founded two organizations to promote food self-reliance: WHY (World Hunger Year) to develop a national and international forum for advocacy thru education and media, and Long Island Cares, Inc., to develop regional strategies for food self-reliance with a local community. We need to reinstate support for the nations nutritional well-being with the funding focus on people and their capacity to put their skills to work.

FRAC
FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER

Testimony Submitted on H.R. 1207,
A Bill to Award a Special Gold Medal to the Family of Harry Chapin

to the House Subcommittee on
Consumer Affairs and Coinage

by

Robert J. Fersh
Executive Director
Food Research and Action Center

May 1, 1986

1319 F STREET, N.W. #500 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004 • (202) 393-5060

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.R. 1207, a bill to award a gold medal to the family of Harry Chapin.

It is appropriate that we honor Harry Chapin as an individual who left a lasting impact on this nation and indeed the entire world. That impact was felt and continues to be felt by people who are involved in efforts to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

Harry Chapin was more than an entertainer or musician. Harry Chapin was a troubadour in the fight to end hunger. Harry Chapin used his songs and his concerts to convey to the public the need to end hunger before it became popular to do so. It was a commitment that went beyond a single song or a concert, it was a life long commitment that has continued past his short life.

More than ten years ago, Harry Chapin founded World Hunger Year with Bill Ayres. That organization has been instrumental in providing people with accurate and reliable information about the root causes of hunger both around the world and in the United States. As part of the enduring legacy of Harry Chapin, the work of World Hunger Year has continued and increased. World Hunger Year remains an invaluable ally to the Food Research and Action Center and other organizations working to help the less fortunate.

In addition to his commitment to end hunger around the world, Harry Chapin's vision also included helping people close to his home who faced the reality of hunger. As a person who was more fortunate than most, Harry Chapin donated more than

half of his earnings to efforts to end hunger. He established Long Island Cares, an agency that continues to provide help to the poor on Long Island with the help of Sandy Chapin, Harry's widow.

Harry Chapin was also instrumental in the establishment of the Food and Hunger Hotline in New York City and the Center for Food Action in New Jersey. Both of these organizations have helped establish hundreds of local food pantries and soup kitchens in their areas providing hundreds of thousands of poor people with food and housing.

Harry Chapin also worked to establish lasting solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition. Harry Chapin was the motivating force behind the establishment of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger during the Carter administration. In addition, Harry Chapin served as one of the commission's most active members, providing leadership to institute many policy changes that have helped feed millions of hungry people.

Working as a lobbyist, Harry Chapin influenced congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle to join his cause. With the help of Representative Benjamin Gilman, Senators Patrick Leahy and Robert Dole, Congress established a federal grain reserve, as recommended by the Presidential Commission. In 1984, the existence of that reserve enabled the United States to respond quickly to the emergency situation in Ethiopia and save countless lives.

While many of the Commission's recommendations have not yet been enacted, the Food Research and Action Center continues to

work towards adoption of the proposals affecting hunger in America. Our organization's work for the establishment of a national nutrition monitoring system and for full funding of the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants and Children -- two recommendations of the Presidential Commission -- are testament to the vision Harry Chapin provided.

While Harry Chapin no longer walks on this earth, his work continues because of the strong foundation he provided. The recent involvement of so many entertainers in efforts to end hunger would not have been possible without Harry Chapin.

While providing a medal to honor this great man is a small token, it is a way of recognizing the work of one individual that exemplifies what is good about America. It is one way we have of showing our thanks to a man who mattered when he was alive and continues to matter through the lessons he left behind.

GOLD MEDALS FOR ANATOLY AND AVITAL SHCHARANSKY

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1986

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCING AND URBAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met at 11:05 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2222, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Frank Annunzio (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Chairman Annunzio, Representives Hiler and Gonzalez.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The subcommittee will now proceed with H.R. 4186.

H.R. 4186 would authorize the presentation of congressional gold medals to Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky in recognition of their dedication to human rights.

The legislation is cosponsored by 224 Members of the House. This fulfills the subcommittee requirement that a bill awarding a gold medal be cosponsored by a majority of House Members before it will be considered.

Anatoly Shcharansky was imprisoned in 1977 for 9 years by the Soviet Union for his activities as a founder and member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group.

Despite the lengthy period of incarceration and isolation, he displayed courage and commitment to his rights as an individual. Ongoing emotional and physical deprivations could not break his spirit or his will.

Throughout his imprisonment his wife, Avital, waged a tireless campaign to free her husband and others similarly mistreated. She would not let the world forget that her husband was imprisoned on trumped-up charges, and that the real reason for his imprisonment was his commitment to the preservation of individual human rights.

Their concern for freedom, and the courage and steadfastness displayed over the long years of their separation stand as a monument to the triumph of the human spirit against adversity. Their love of freedom and their willingness to endure much to attain it, stand as a shining beacon to all who love and cherish freedom.

[The text of H.R. 4186 follows:]

I

99TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4186

To authorize the President of the United States to award congressional gold medals to Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky in recognition of their dedication to human rights, and to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to sell bronze duplicates of those medals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 19, 1986

Mr. GILMAN (for himself, Mr. BROOMFIELD, Mr. FASCELL, Mr. KEMP, Mr. LOTT, Mr. PURSELL, Mr. FRANK, Mr. FISH, Mr. HORTON, Mr. HYDE, Mr. MCGRATH, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LENT, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LAGOMARSINO, Mr. GREEN, Mr. SOLARZ, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. RITTER, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. WEISS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

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A BILL

To authorize the President of the United States to award congressional gold medals to Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky in recognition of their dedication to human rights, and to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to sell bronze duplicates of those medals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Avital Shcharansky and Anatoly Shcharansky have displayed immense courage and commitment to the preservation of individual human rights, regarded as among the highest of ideals by the American people;

(2) Anatoly Shcharansky, a prominent founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group and active spokesman for the human rights denied to Soviet Jews, was unjustly arrested by the Soviet Union in 1977 and imprisoned for almost nine years on the false charges of espionage and treason;

(3) Anatoly Shcharansky, during his lengthy incarceration and isolation, was subjected to ongoing emotional and physical deprivation of the highest magnitude, yet continued to display raw courage and the noblest commitment to his rights as an individual, thereby setting an example for others whose individual freedoms are being denied;

(4) freedom is the ideal held most dear by the American people, and Anatoly Shcharansky has become a symbol of that love of freedom;

(5) Avital Shcharansky, while her husband was kept silent by Soviet prisons and labor camps, waged an indefatigable campaign around the world on behalf of her husband and others similarly treated;

(6) Avital Shcharansky's earnest persistence and dedication to the precepts of freedom of thought, word, and deed raised the consciousness of the world while she valiantly worked for her husband's release, thus elevating human rights to a global concern; and

(7) their reunion is evidence of the triumph of the human spirit against all adversities.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD.—The President of the United States is authorized and requested to present, on behalf of the Congress, gold medals to Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky in recognition of their supreme dedication and total commitment to the cause of individual human rights and freedoms.

(b) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall cause to be struck two gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND SALE.—The Secretary may cause duplicates in bronze of the gold medals provided for in

section 2 to be coined and sold under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of such duplicates and such gold medals, including labor, material, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Any appropriation made under section 2 shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of the sales referred to in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals provided for in this Act shall be considered to be national medals for purposes of section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mr. Hiler.

Mr. HILER. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for piggybacking this particular gold medal on with the previous one. Certainly the Shcharansky's are an international symbol of the cause of freedom and human rights.

I have recently been doing some reading on the Helsinki accords, and while in the best of intention we had hoped that the Soviets might become more cognizant of the cause of human rights, and I am not certain at all that they have, but the Shcharansky's I think will never allow the rest of the world to forget what has gone on in the Soviet Union for so many, many years.

We look forward to their being in the United States and we look forward to their continuing to be a symbol.

I think that recognition by the U.S. Congress is totally appropriate and I applaud you for moving this legislation this morning and look forward to the testimony of our colleague from New York, Mr. Gilman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mr. Gonzalez, would you like to make a statement?

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Other than to say that I, of course, wholeheartedly endorse this and again thank you for your leadership and also the leadership afforded by our very distinguished and highly respected colleague, Mr. Gilman from New York, who of course has been at the forefront, other than that, I have nothing else to say.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. This morning, I am privileged to welcome to the subcommittee for the second time, Hon. Ben Gilman, Congressman from New York who is now in his seventh term in the Congress of the United States.

He serves on the Foreign Affairs and Post Office and Civil Service Committees and he has been a champion of all legislation affecting the human rights of individuals throughout the world.

It is my pleasure to welcome you before our subcommittee, Mr. Gilman.

STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind introduction. I appreciate the words of Mr. Hiler with regard to the importance of this measure, and the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Gonzalez, for his support of the bill.

This is an extremely important measure in that the Shcharanskys are symbolic of human rights and the deprivation of human rights, and particularly the deprivation of human rights behind the Iron Curtain.

I know that I am going to be joined this morning by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Porter, and the gentleman from California, Mr. Lantos, who at the moment are making 1-minute remarks on the floor and will come over as quickly as possible.

I know, too, that there were many human rights groups that would have liked to have been here this morning, but because of the rapid manner in which the chairman reacted to our request for

placing this on the calendar, they were not prepared to be with us, and some are unavailable because of a religious holiday today.

Mr. Chairman, we are all aware of the difficulties in obtaining a majority of the House as cosponsors to a measure, but I must add that in the 2 brief months in which this measure has been pending, the number of cosponsors of over 225 were readily supportive and willing to underscore the validity of this proposal.

This legislation, as we know, authorizes the President, on behalf of the Congress, to award Congressional Gold Medals to both Avital and Anatoly Shcharansky in recognition of their dedication to human rights.

This bill also authorizes the Secretary to sell bronze duplicates of these medals to the general public in order to offset the cost of the minting of the medal.

And as an aside, and off the record, I hope that they will be minted at the U.S. Mint in West Point that you have been so instrumental in helping us to keep open.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Well, you know, Mr. Gilman, we have tried to cooperate with you in the past and we want to continue that spirit of cooperation.

Mr. GILMAN. I can't tell you how much our district appreciates your help. As you know in your recent visit to that mint how much it means to our entire region.

Mr. Chairman, I introduced H.R. 4186 shortly after Anatoly Shcharansky walked across the Gleinicke Bridge to freedom because of my belief that Avital and Anatoly Shcharansky, more than any other individuals, have brought the vital issue of human rights to global attention.

Their commitment and their dedication to precepts which we, in our Nation hold so dear is most deserving of this kind of recognition. There are few real heroes in the world today, but Avital and Anatoly Shcharansky certainly personify the best of heroism, having surmounted all odds and adversity through their unique personalities and their supreme commitment to each other and to the issue of human rights, particularly during that difficult period when Anatoly was incarcerated for almost 9 years in some of the worst prisons and labor camps in the Soviet Union.

Following the adoption of the Helsinki accords in 1975, various Helsinki monitoring groups were organized in the Soviet Union. One of the most prominent of those was the Moscow Helsinki monitoring group, and among its leaders was Dr. Andrei Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and Anatoly Shcharansky.

It fell to Anatoly to serve as a liaison and a translator for that group, and he soon became its major spokesman. And at the time of his arrest in 1977, Avital and Anatoly had already been separated for several years, Avital having been granted an exit visa which expired 1 day after their marriage. Promises by the Soviets that Anatoly would soon follow in emigration were, of course, without any foundation.

Anatoly was arrested on a false charge of being a U.S. agent engaged in espionage. Three American Presidents have denied that allegation to the Soviet Union. Anatoly was sentenced to 13 years in prison, an unheard of sentence for one so clearly innocent.

His final statement in the courtroom, Mr. Chairman, was powerfully eloquent. It has become a source of inspiration to all those who believe in the integrity of the human spirit. He said in part at that time:

"Now when I am further than ever from my people, from Avital, facing many arduous years of imprisonment, I say, turning to my people, to my Avital: Next year in Jerusalem! And I turn to you, the court, who were required to confirm a predetermined sentence: To you I have nothing to say."

Yet the one individual who did more to bring Anatoly's plight and that of so many other human rights activists in the Soviet Union to the forefront was his devoted wife, Avital Shcharansky.

With a tenacity and clearness of purpose that is rare indeed today, she focused the attention of the entire world on the importance of human rights and individual freedoms.

I was with Avital on many occasions as she sat waiting to see one world leader after another to make a personal appeal, and I am certain that my colleagues here have had the opportunity to meet with her and to hear her plea in the past.

Our Nation has always believed that the freedoms granted by our Bill of Rights are sacred indeed, and it is therefore our responsibility to work for the freedom of others and to recognize such outstanding qualities and commitment in certain men and women. Two such outstanding individuals are Avital and Anatoly Shcharansky.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me say that their dedication to the cause of freedom of thought, of word and of deed embodies the precepts by which our Nation acts. Their recent reunion is evidence of the triumph of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversities.

Even the Soviet Union in all its might could not silence them.

I am pleased that your subcommittee is willing to take up the bill at this appropriate time because Anatoly Shcharansky is preparing to come to the United States to meet with the President and Congress in the next few weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank your distinguished committee.

[The prepared statement of Representative Gilman follows:]

TESTIMONY OF

THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN (22-NY)

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

HEARING ON H.R. 4186

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO

AVITAL AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY

MAY 1, 1986

AT THE OUTSET, CHAIRMAN ANNUNZIO, LET ME SAY HOW APPRECIATIVE I AND THE OTHER COSPONSORS OF THIS LEGISLATION ARE OF YOU AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED SUBCOMMITTEE. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING A MAJORITY OF THE HOUSE AS COSPONSORS TO A MEASURE. BUT, I MUST ADD, IN THE TWO SHORT MONTHS IN WHICH H.R. 4186 HAS BEEN PENDING, MORE THAN THE NECESSARY 218 COSPONSORS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. THIS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT ONLY UNDERSCORES THE VALIDITY OF THIS MEASURE.

H.R. 4186 AUTHORIZES THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ON BEHALF OF CONGRESS, TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO AVITAL AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS. THE BILL ALSO AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO SELL BRONZE DUPLICATES OF THOSE MEDALS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. I INTRODUCED H.R. 4186 SHORTLY AFTER ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY WALKED ACROSS THE GLEINICKE BRIDGE TO FREEDOM BECAUSE OF MY BELIEF THAT AVITAL AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY, MORE THAN ANY OTHER TWO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, HAVE BROUGHT THE VITAL ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO GLOBAL ATTENTION. THEIR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO PRECEPTS WHICH WE AS AMERICANS HOLD DEAR IS MOST DESERVING OF SUCH RECOGNITION. THERE ARE VERY FEW HEROES IN THE WORLD TODAY, BUT AVITAL AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY HAVE SURMOUNTED ALL ODDS AND ADVERSITY THROUGH THEIR UNIQUE PERSONALITIES AND SUPREME COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER.

BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, PERMIT ME TO OUTLINE A BRIEF HISTORY OF MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SHCHARANSKYS. FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN 1975, VARIOUS HELSINKI ACCORDS MONITORING GROUPS WERE CREATED IN THE SOVIET UNION. ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT WAS LOCATED IN MOSCOW, AND AMONG THE LEADERS WERE DR. ANDREI SAKHAROV, A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY. IT FELL TO ANATOLY TO SERVE AS A LIAISON AND TRANSLATOR FOR

THE GROUP, AND HE QUICKLY BECAME A MAJOR SPOKESMAN. AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST IN 1977, AVITAL AND ANATOLY HAD ALREADY BEEN SEPARATED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS AVITAL WAS GRANTED AN EXIT VISA WHICH EXPIRED ONE DAY AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE. PROMISES BY SOVIET OFFICIAL THAT ANATOLY WOULD SOON FOLLOW WERE OF COURSE FALSE PROMISES.

ANATOLY WAS ARRESTED ON THE FALSE CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE AND THE RELATED CHARGE OF TREASON. HE WAS SENTENCED TO THIRTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT, AN UNHEARD OF SENTENCE FOR ONE SO CLEARLY INNOCENT. HIS FINAL STATEMENT IN THE COURTROOM WAS POWERFULLY ELOQUENT, AND HAS BECOME A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. HE SAID, IN PART: "FIVE YEARS AGO I SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION FOR EXIT TO ISRAEL. NOW I'M FURTHER THAN EVER FROM MY DREAM. IT WOULD SEEM TO BE CAUSE FOR REGRET. BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY OTHERWISE. I AM HAPPY. I AM HAPPY THAT I LIVED HONESTLY, IN PEACE WITH MY CONSCIENCE. I NEVER COMPROMISED MY SOUL, EVEN UNDER THE THREAT OF DEATH... FOR MORE THAN 2000 YEARS THE JEWISH PEOPLE, MY PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN DISPERSED. BUT WHEREVER THEY ARE, WHEREVER JEWS ARE FOUND, EACH YEAR THEY HAVE REPEATED, 'NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM'. NOW, WHEN I AM FURTHER THAN EVER FROM MY PEOPLE, FROM AVITAL, FACING MANY ARDUOUS YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT, I SAY, TURNING TO MY PEOPLE, MY AVITAL: NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM! AND I TURN TO YOU, THE COURT, WHO WERE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM A PREDETERMINED SENTENCE: TO YOU I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY."

MR. CHAIRMAN, FROM THE TIME OF ANATOLY'S ARREST UNTIL THE DAY HE WAS FREED, MANY INDIVIDUALS HAVE WORKED ON HIS BEHALF. PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY I SOUGHT POSSIBLE AVENUES OF FREEDOM FOR A MAN SO UNJUSTLY PERSECUTED FOR HIS BELIEFS. I WAS THEREFORE IMMENSELY GRATIFIED THAT THE PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH I PARTICIPATED FOR MANY YEARS, FINALLY BORE FRUIT.

YET THE ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO DID MORE TO BRING ANATOLY'S PLIGHT, AND THAT OF SO MANY OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION TO THE FOREFRONT, IS NONE OTHER THAN AVITAL SHCHARANSKY. WITH A TENACITY AND CLEARNESS OF PURPOSE THAT IS RARE INDEED, SHE FOCUSED THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS.

THE PAST DECADE HAS SEEN A CHANGE IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS; WE ARE WITNESSES TO POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOUTH AMERICA AND IN OTHER NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. I AM GRATIFIED THAT THESE CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE, YET I STILL CRINGE WHEN I CONSIDER THE FATE OF SO MANY INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN, WHOSE SOLE DESIRE IS TO PRACTICE THEIR RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL HERITAGE FREELY. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FEELING IN THIS COUNTRY THAT THE FREEDOMS GRANTED BY OUR BILL OF RIGHTS ARE SACRED INDEED. IT IS THEREFORE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK FOR THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS AND TO RECOGNIZE SUCH OUTSTANDING QUALITIES AND COMMITMENT IN CERTAIN MEN AND WOMEN. TWO SUCH INDIVIDUALS ARE AVITAL AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY. THEIR DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED EMBODIES THE PRECEPTS BY WHICH THE UNITED STATES ACTS. THEIR RECENT REUNION IS EVIDENCE OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN THE FACE OF NUMEROUS ADVERSITIES. EVEN THE SOVIET UNION, IN ALL ITS MIGHT, COULD NOT SILENCE THEM BOTH.

ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY BECAME A SYMBOL AROUND THE WORLD OF A MAN WHO WOULD NOT SUBMIT HIS PRINCIPLES AND LOVE OF FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY. AVITAL SHCHARANSKY WAGED A TIRELESS CAMPAIGN FOR NINE YEARS, AN ODYSSEY WHICH BROUGHT HER TO WASHINGTON AND OTHER WORLD CAPITALS NUMEROUS TIMES. THEIR STRUGGLE WAS OUR STRUGGLE, YET THE BATTLE CONTINUES FOR THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOVIET JEWS, PENTACOSTALS, AUTHORS, ARTISTS, AND MANY OTHERS WHO SEEK THE FREEDOMS ACCORDED THEM UNDER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

I INTRODUCED H.R. 4186 SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THROUGH CONGRESS AND THE

PRESIDENT, CAN RECOGNIZE AVITAL AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY'S CONTRIBUTION AND DEDICATION TO OUR COMMON GOAL -- THAT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ON THIS EARTH. WITH OVER 225 COSPONSORS, ENDORSEMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION THROUGH ENACTMENT WILL ALSO SEND A POWERFUL SIGNAL TO THE SOVIET UNION THAT WE ARE INDEED DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

I KNOW I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY HOW MUCH WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 13TH. I WOULD HOPE, THAT WITH YOU ASSISTANCE, WE WOULD WITNESS SWIFT PASSAGE OF THIS MEASURE SO THAT THE PROPER CEREMONIES COULD BE ARRANGED. AFTER NINE LONG YEARS, ANATOLY NEEDS TO KNOW OF OUR CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR HIS STRUGGLE.

ACCORDINLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I URGE YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO ADOPT H.R. 4186, AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR VERY PROMPT SCHEDULING OF THIS HEARING.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Mr. Gilman, for an outstanding statement.

This morning it is a genuine pleasure for me to welcome my distinguished colleague from Illinois, the Honorable John Porter. Congressman Porter is an attorney by profession. He represents the 10th Congressional District which borders my own district in Illinois, and he is now serving his fourth term in the House.

He is the founder and cochairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Mr. Porter, your entire statement will be made part of the record, and will you proceed for about 5 minutes in your own manner.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. PORTER. Well, Mr. Chairman, let me thank you for that kind introduction. It certainly is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to appear before my distinguished colleague and neighbor in Illinois and the members of the subcommittee.

I appreciate the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to testify this morning on H.R. 4186 which is a bill designed toward giving Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky the congressional gold medal.

The Shcharanskys' dedication to human rights and their relentless efforts on behalf of persecuted individuals in the Soviet Union is a model to all who believe in the freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and the freedom to live in the land of one's choice.

The Shcharanskys' valor in the struggle for human survival is unmatched and well deserves this congressional honor.

Anatoly Shcharansky long ago became a cornerstone in the human rights movement. He was originally a member of the Helsinki Watch, an organization set up to monitor Soviet compliance with the 1975 Helsinki accords.

He was arrested in 1977 and charged with espionage. He was subsequently sentenced to 13 years in prison where he was subjected to physical abuse, including prolonged confinement and unsanitary living conditions.

His determination to maintain his innocence on the espionage charges also included 109-day hunger strike.

But while her husband suffered in a Soviet prison, Avital Shcharansky took it upon herself to let the world know what atrocities her husband was living through.

Her relentless efforts through 9 years to inform the world included countless meetings with leaders throughout the West and organizing demonstrations and petition drives to tell Soviet authorities that Anatoly Shcharansky was a symbol to all who are concerned with human rights.

The world responded and rallied behind the single voice of Avital Shcharansky, a woman who herself symbolizes undying strength and devotion to freedom.

The reunion of Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky in February was a victory for the human spirit and a triumph for freedom. But the Shcharanskys' voices have not been silent since. They are now fighting for Benjamin Bogomolmy, who first requested to emigrate

from the Soviet Union 20 years ago, for Josef Begun, who is now serving his third prison sentence for the crime of teaching Hebrew, for Zachar Zunshine, who was imprisoned for expressing his right to emigrate to Israel and for hundreds of thousands of others who yearn to be free.

Mr. Chairman, the Shcharanskys' courage and dedication to the cause of human rights is without equal.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation of recognizing the Shcharanskys' for the congressional gold medal.

My colleague from New York, Ben Gilman, has once again in proposing this gold medal confirmed his leadership in the Congress and across our country for human freedom in the cause of Soviet emigration.

And, Mr. Chairman, you and I and the members of the committee all would do ourselves proud by supporting this fine bill, and I am certainly here to urge you to report it to the floor and let's have Congress pass it right away.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I should inform the members of the subcommittee that I have made arrangements to have this bill brought to the floor on Monday, and I appreciate the cooperation of the members.

We have had two long hearings this morning, but I was able to get permission.

So Mr. Lantos, I welcome you to the subcommittee once again. You are no stranger to this subcommittee.

You authored the legislation, as I recall, which authorized the presentation of a congressional gold medal to the family of our late distinguished colleague, Leo Ryan, who was assassinated while performing his duties as a Member of the House.

Congressman Lantos learned about human rights firsthand. He is a native of Hungary. He survived the Holocaust and came to the United States in 1947. He is cochairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Mr. Lantos, will you proceed in your own manner, and your entire statement will be made part of the record.

STATEMENT OF HON. TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. LANTOS. I appreciate that very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me first pay tribute to you for your leadership in this field of human rights. You have been more than supportive. You have been a leader, and we are very proud to work with you on this particular issue.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you.

Mr. LANTOS. I also want to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague, Congressman Gilman, who has been an indefatigable champion of all human rights causes in the Congress of the United States, and I am proud to be supporting his efforts.

I will be appreciative if I may place in the record a statement by Anatoly Shcharansky which appeared in the New York Times 2 weeks ago on the subject of the continuing struggle for human rights in the Soviet Union.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Without objection, it is so ordered.

[The excerpt from the Congressional Record containing the statement of Anatoly Shchransky from the New York Times follows:]

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ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 1986

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit into the RECORD with my colleague and cochairman of the congressional human rights caucus, JOHN PORTER, a statement by Anatoly Shcharansky which appeared in the New York Times yesterday. His comments are especially worthwhile in light of the up-coming international meeting in Bern, Switzerland, regarding emigration and human contact issues.

Mr. Shcharansky writes with incredible clarity about a problem which concerns many of us here in Congress: The continuing persecution of Jewish and other political prisoners in the Soviet Union. Writing with the conviction possible only from one who has directly experienced the horrors of his subject, Mr. Shcharansky depicts the appalling conditions of the "re-education" of political and religious dissidents. These conditions, unfortunately, have not improved in the last 10 years since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. In fact, Mr. Shcharansky indicates that conditions for political prisoners are actually worsening.

JOHN PORTER and I, on behalf of the congressional human rights caucus, commend the article to the attention of all Members of Congress. We must re-dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of human rights, today more than ever before. We should begin a dialog about the real world—tragically, the gulags are part of that world.

The statement follows:

MOSCOW MUST START COMPLYING WITH THE 1975 HELSINKI AGREEMENT

(By Anatoly B. Shcharansky)

I left the world of the gulag only a few weeks ago, and I am not yet ready to speak in public. Nevertheless, I could not refuse to greet you, if only in a recorded message, because the problems that brought you here today are extremely important to many people fighting for their rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the world.

Ten years ago, several dissidents in the Soviet Union created a public group to monitor Moscow's compliance with the Helsinki agreements. Our idea was that many of the human rights issues that divide the governments of the Eastern and Western blocs could be agreed upon by independent representatives of public opinion—people in both East and West who have a vital interest in the implementation of the Helsinki agreements in their own countries. So we voluntarily took upon ourselves the task of examining how the Helsinki agreements were being implemented in the Soviet Union.

Ten years have passed, and what do we see? The Jewish emigration that began in the early 1970's has been brought to a stop by the Soviet authorities. Several hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union cannot do so for no other reason than that the Soviet Government has decided that they cannot.

I spent nine years in Soviet prisons and camps, and I can certify that the conditions in which political prisoners are detained have been getting steadily worse. I shall mention only two particular problems.

First, a new article of the Penal Code, article 188-1, introduced in late 1983, allows the Soviet authorities to extend almost at will the length of time that one remains in prison or in camp. This measure has already been applied to several members of Helsinki monitoring groups now in prison. It is used by the authorities both to prolong the detention of political prisoners who resist "re-education"—who refuse to comply with efforts to make them change their ideas and convictions—and to intimidate the others.

Second, according to a new official directive introduced barely a year ago in the Soviet Union, political prisoners who start a hunger strike can be immediately thrown into a dungeon—a measure that very much aggravates their sufferings.

These are only two examples of the many ways that the authorities are cracking down on political prisoners in camps. Why is this so important? Because, as a rule, the policy regarding the camps very much reflects the general situation in the country—the disregard for the rule of law and the harshness of the regime.

I would like to attract your special attention to the Sakharov case. I do not need to remind you that Andrei Dmitrivich Sakharov is a hero, a model of a honorable man who continues the very best traditions of the Russian intelligentsia, fighting for the trampled rights—be they national, religious or political—of all people of the Soviet Union.

Needless to say, his present situation is extremely difficult. He is cruely and unjustly isolated from his family and friends, barred from scientific work and normal social activities. His state of health inspires growing fears. I consider it vitally important at this moment to raise our voices and call for the Soviet Government to stop its persecution of Andrei Sakharov—to grant this remarkable man the possibility to continue his noble activities in dignity and normal conditions.

Looking back at the first documents issued by our Helsinki group 10 years ago, I must say that the longer I spent in prison, the more accurate they seemed and the more important. I also believe that it is more necessary than ever now for international public opinion to press the Soviet Union on these matters. It is high time for Moscow to begin complying with the Helsinki agreement signed in 1975.

I think that the Andrei Sakharov Institute and Resistance International have made a great contribution by organizing this meeting. I hope this work will be continued and will lead to further contacts, contributing to a real detente and to the establishment of genuine trust between the superpowers. In the long run, however, there will be no trust or détente until both sides show full respect for human rights in the keeping with the Helsinki agreement.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, it is poignant that we meet here on the 1st of May, because May Day is a big day in the Soviet Union.

As you and I are sitting here a new leader is standing atop the Lenin Mausoleum at Red Square in Moscow. While the leader is new, the Stalinist secrecy covers, blankets the Soviet Union in an entirely unchanged fashion.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, it is my humble opinion that that Stalinist secrecy that covers the Soviet Union is more ominous than the radioactive cloud which is slowly drifting across the continent over the whole of Europe.

What we are witnessing in the Soviet Union today is highly relevant to the gold medal for Anatoly Shcharansky, because what is happening in the Ukraine, while it is a human tragedy, it is also a governmental crime.

This world is much too small and much too fragile and much too interdependent to allow Stalinist secrecy to determine the fate, not only of millions living within the borders of the Soviet Union, but millions beyond the borders of the Soviet Union, in my native Hungary, in Poland, and even in Western Europe.

Winston Churchill once suggested that Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. But I think there is a key to that riddle, and the key, Mr. Chairman, is a callousness, a penetrating callousness to human suffering.

Anatoly Shcharansky for 9 long years languished in the Soviet gulag. He has shown a degree of courage and determination and willpower to tell his story to the rest of the world, which is almost unprecedented.

As we honor him with our gold medal, we dedicate ourselves to continuing the fight in which he has been such a valiant and noble knight for human rights in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

I again want to thank you for your support and leadership on this issue and again want to pay tribute to my colleague, Congressman Gilman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Thank you very much, Mr. Lantos, for your excellent statement. I am impressed every time you appear before this subcommittee because I know and I have read about the experiences that you have suffered, and you project that feeling to anyone who listens to you. It just penetrates.

Mr. LANTOS. I am deeply grateful.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The subcommittee is very, very grateful.

Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 11:16 a.m., the committee proceeded into executive session.]

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The committee will now go into executive session for the purposes of marking up H.R. 4816.

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